

Decision Notice
For Proposed White Bear Fishing Access Site Improvements
Fish, Wildlife & Parks
Region 4
4600 Giant Springs Road
Great Falls, MT 59405

October 15, 2003

Proposed Action:

Primitive level development of a three-acre portion of the 41.3-acre fishing access site for public river access and daytime recreation. Enhancements are limited to: a small, 6-8 vehicle parking lot; a closed system, vault latrine; a gravel entry route to the river; space cleared for a vehicle turnaround and riverside launching for canoes, kayaks and small rafts; appropriate fencing and signing. The route to the river will accommodate year around emergency volunteer fire department access to water.

Decision:

Fish, Wildlife & Parks (FWP) received seven (7) comments about the environmental assessment (EA). Based on the comments and further consideration of the site, I have modified preferred Alternative B. The small parking area and latrine will be moved to the current entrance area near Hawk Drive. No parking will be permitted in the interior of the site. Site management will be designed for day use only and an interior gate will restrict vehicle entry during the winter months, when the river is iced up. These adjustments were made to protect the riparian habitat and maintain wild character of the site; also to discourage night use.

Tax Questions:

FWP has one wildlife management area, two state parks and thirteen fishing access sites in Cascade County. Like private property owners, FWP contributes to road improvements with taxes and SID payments. In 2002 FWP paid Cascade County \$9,325.54.

Finding of No Significant Impact:

I have reviewed the EA and applicable laws, regulations, and policies, and have determined that this action will not have a significant effect on the human environment. Therefore, an environmental impact statement will not be prepared.

This action is subject to appeal, which must be submitted to the FWP Director in writing, and postmarked within 30 days of the date on this decision notice. The appeal must specifically describe the basis for the appeal, explain how appellant has previously commented to the Department or participated in the decision making process, and lay out how FWP might address the concerns in the appeal.

The environmental assessment may be viewed, or obtained from FWP, Region 4, Great Falls, MT. If you have any questions regarding this decision notice, or the final EA please direct requests and questions to: Mike Aderhold, FWP, 4600 Giant Springs Road, Great Falls, MT 59405, (406) 454-5840. Region 4 Parks Manager, Dave Todd will supervise the project, (406) 454-5859.

Signed: _____
Mike Aderhold, Region 4 Supervisor

Date